

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF A.I.D.S.O.

Stand up against injustice, heighten moral and ethical standard, and give organisational shape to correct revolutionary politics

—COM. GHOSH'S APPEAL TO THE STUDENTS

The 20th anniversary of the All India Democratic Students' Organisation was observed by the West Bengal State Committee on the 30th of December in Calcutta, at the University Institute Hall which was proved too short for the large gathering of thousands of students and youths that spilled over the packed hall to outer spaces and street. Comrade Sanjit Biswas, Secretary W. B. State committee A I D S O was in the chair.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the outstanding Marxist thinker of the era, the beloved leader, teacher and the General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Centre of India was invited at the occasion to be the main speaker.

In his address which was, as usual, lucid and inspiring, Comrade Ghosh reminded the gathering that the country was no doubt, passing through all-round crises unprecedented in dimension and intensity due to sharp accentuation of crisis in the very capitalist productive system. In the past, when there was lesser magnitude of people's sufferings, the country witnessed the explosion of peoples' wrath in movements and agitations against the bourgeois government. The left and democratic parties also came in defence of peoples' cause; the bourgeois national dailies also from humanist angle used to take up their issues. But today, in such an oppressive and suffocating situation, neither the big left parties nor the bourgeois dailies stand by the people; they maintain either studied silence or issue occasional paper statements and organise intermittent rallies or meetings to put on record their so-called concern for the oppressed masses. Consequently, the people are in a frustrating situation and what should be said, a sullen silence of the people prevails. So, it is obvious, even the minimum democratic values and ethical standard that once spurred the people to stand against oppression and injustice do not work now.

As a result let alone people's movements gaining momentum and higher stages, they are practically non-existent.

The principal cause for this apparent paradox testifies the truth. The truth is, to be a man in the real sense of the term more so to be a real revolutionary one must have that sense of value that puts one face to face with the oppression, no matter what the price is. And it is this fighting spirit, this defiant spirit against injustice that makes a man invincible and creates history. No amount of oppression can cow him down to submit to injustice. The experiences of revolutionary struggles in Vietnam, China, Russia or to be precise, of every social revolution will bear out this truth. But they also testify the truth that only a true revolutionary party can alone correctly interpret the essence of revolutionary philosophy like Marxism-Leninism, to the oppressed masses the kernel of which like every noble ideology, lies in higher ethical and moral values that make possible the spirit of dedication for the deliverance of the society. Only a true revolutionary party can, therefore, inspire the masses to bring about the radical transformation of the society when they just groan under a most tyrannical and despotic bourgeois class rule as in our country. Any revolutionary transformation in our society therefore is bound to mean overthrow of the capitalist exploitative

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Central Committee Statement

Com. Sachin Banerjee on behalf of the Central Committee of the S.U.C.I. in a statement said that :

"The tragic and dastardly incident at Samastipur leading to the death of Mr. Lalit Narayan Misra, the Union Railway Minister and three others and severe injury to several other people is nothing but an outcome of politics of murder and individual terrorism which have all through been severely condemned by our party. The incident evoked strongest condemnation from all right-thinking and peace loving people in our country. But the manner in which this criminal act took place gives rise to a grave suspicion in the minds of the democratic minded people about a pre-planned and heinous motive of the Hitlerite descendants, out to build up fascism and smear the growing popular democratic movement in the country in perpetrating this crime in a 'Reichstag model'. The C.C. demands a thorough, impartial and high-powered probe to unearth the conspiracy, bring the culprits to the book and expresses deep sympathy to the bereaved families of the deceased.

Two lakh fifty thousand Jute Workers on Strike

Two lakhs fifty thousand jute workers in 62 jute mills in the State of West Bengal have been on strike for indefinite period since 6th of January. The strike has been in response to the call of all the eight central trade unions, including UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and has been total, a fact not even challenged by the Government and the I.J.M.A.

So, the jute workers have been in the strike only after a year of their heroic 33 day strike struggle as the Government, this time has surpassed all its previous records of subservience to the jute barons. The notable thing in this year's strike is that the workers are demanding of the Government to fulfil its own commitments which, the Government is placing in a manner as if they depend on the good grace of the jute barons. What are those commitments?

It will be worthwhile to remember that the workers including the jute workers were for long been cheated from their legal dues due to fraudulent compilation of consumer Prices Index (CPI). The workers were demanding their proper rectification. After much bungling the Government, at last appointed an expert committee to go into the question. The Committee better known as Bhattacharjee Committee, though did not go to the

full length of rectification, yet recommended certain improvement which if implemented in toto would give an immediate benefit of about Rs. 56 to Rs. 100 over the present D.A. of the workers. But the Government, setting up a new record of its fascistic skill, not only tampered with this recommendation by a false computation of the gain only as Rs. 16, but in a bid to impose it on the workers banned strike in jute and other 34 industries under Section 19 of the DIR.

This is a new form of attack on the trade union movement in as much that the Government is trying to set up a dangerous precedent of interfering with an expert committee set up by itself and the recommendations of which are same in force and importance as more of an award of a tribunal or judicial pronouncement. The second commitment relates to recommendation given by no less a person

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'Economic Magna Carta' Adopted at UNO by Overwhelming Majority

After marathon negotiations for about thirty months, the UN General Assembly has adopted by an overwhelming majority a charter of economic rights and duties of States, popularly named as the 'economic magna carta' by the developing countries. The charter was adopted with 120 countries voting in favour of it, including China and the Soviet Union, six against it and ten abstentions. India also voted in favour of the charter. Among the six countries which voted against the charter were the United States, Britain, Denmark, West Germany and Luxembourg, all of which belong to the 'rich men's club', representing the bulwark of world imperialism.

The 34-clause charter adopted by the UN Assembly states that each of the States has the right "to freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources, to regulate and exercise authority over foreign investments within its national jurisdiction and to nationalise, expropriate or transfer ownership of foreign property." The charter also states that in case of dispute over the question of compensation in cases of nationalisation, it should be settled under the domestic laws and tribunals of the nationalising State. Under the charter, "Every State would have the sovereign and inalienable right to choose its economic, political, social and cultural systems, in accordance with the will of its people without outside interference and coercion."

Firstly, from the content of the charter and the composition of members voting in favour of and against it, it becomes obvious that the charter is the product of dogged persistence of the resurgent nationalist countries to ensure a Mandate of fair deal in their favour as

relatively weak competitors in the world market, thereby foiling to a remarkable extent, attempts to economic exploitation by the advanced imperialist countries. Naturally, the 'rich men's club' or bulwark of imperialist interest smelling danger at the prospect of more formidable competitors emerging in the world market, has sharply reacted to the adoption of this charter. The US representative in particular, has openly given vent to his indignation by threatening to withdraw all financial help offered to the UNO if such measures, detrimental to the interests of the affluent members, are adopted. And as a significant follow-up, the USA has refused point blank to contribute to the world food bank.

Secondly, the charter once again proves the hollowness of the fanciful theory of the pseudo-Marxists that a country, because of economic dependence, is reduced to a semi-colony, or loses its political sovereignty. On the contrary, the charter in effect substantiates the fact that the resurgent nationalist countries (including India), reserve its permanent sovereign right to choose its own ways and means to assert its social, economic, political and cultural system 'without outside interference and coercion'. And in fact, the charter proves beyond doubt that these developing countries—believed to be semi-colonies by some pseudo-Marxists of our country—are emerging more and more as formidable competitors in the capitalist imperialist world market as sovereign states, which renders null and void the attempts of our 'Marxist' friends to brand them as compradors. It will be equally wrong to clamour this role of the resurgent nationalist countries, particularly of India, as "progressive"—as another section of pseudo-Marxists of our country are trying

to make out—because this move of resurgent nationalism is aimed at strengthening and consolidating the very capitalist economic bases in these countries against which the common people are engaged in a life and death struggle.

The significance and role of resurgent nationalism termed also as Third World has been acknowledged of late by the Chinese Communist Party, which says in its Tenth Party Congress report, "The awakening and the growth of the Third World is a major event in the contemporary international relation. The Third World... is playing an even more significant role in international affairs".

It is heartening to note that as far back as 1959-60, the eminent Marxist philosopher and our beloved teacher and leader Com. Shibdas Ghosh rightly took note of the significance of Third World when he said, "These newly liberated, nationalist countries of Asia and Africa are trying to emerge as newer and newer competitors everyday in the contracted capitalist market (Translator)".

History has only substantiated this scientific analysis. We wonder how our 'Marxist' friends would explain it away!

Orissa Government's Levy Collection Act Condemned

Condemning the levy collection Act of the Government, Com Tapas Dutta, Secretary of State Committee of Orissa, SUCI has given the following statement to the press.

"Now, the enactment of levy collection act of the Orissa Government is a great taxation on poor and lower middle peasants and side by side rich peasants are being given special concession in different ways. In spite of the pauperized condition of the poor and middle

In a meeting of the General Council of the United Council of Trade Unions, held at Vital Bhai Patel House, New-Delhi, from 21st. to 22nd. December last, the U.C.T.U. warned the working people of India of the growing magnitude of onslaught against their standard of living in the form of wage-cut, indiscriminate use of D.I.R. and M. I. S. A. to suppress strike and other forms of legitimate struggles, large scale victimization of Government employees, denial on the part of Government to pay promised 50% D.A. due to the Central Government employees for the fifth time and no revision of D.A. to the State Government employees etc. and urged them to stand united against such attack on their life and livelihood both on the part of the private employers and Government itself.

In the resolution adopted in the meeting, the UCTU General Council strongly protested against the withholding of instalments of DA due to the Central and State Governments' employees. Through an amendment moved by Com. Pritish Chanda, Secretary UTUC (Lenin Sarani), which was incorporated in the main resolution it was specifically pointed out with deep concern that the Government is increasingly invoking DIR and thereby gagging the right to strikes, a hard-earned right of the working class through heroic struggles of the workers. It cautioned the working people of this new danger and called upon them to organise themselves in vigorous movement against this type of fascistic design of the Government. Among other things protested against were wage-cut and victimization

of Government employees specially the railway employees during and after their historic strike in the month of May last. The resolution was accepted unanimously.

While reviewing the performances of the State Conventions against wage-cut etc. the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) protested against the sectarian activities of the CITU in Orissa Convention where delegates from different important industrial workers' unions representing Engineering, Cement, Fertilizer industries in the State affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) were prevented from addressing the meeting, while at the same time giving various so-called city and district co-ordination committee members under the banner of CITU free chances to address for a long time with a heinous motive of painting an exaggerated picture about themselves at the cost of gagging the voice of the genuine representatives of the working class of the state organised under the banner of UTUC (Lenin Sarani). Even due to this sectarian attitude of the CITU, the Organising Committee could not be formed. Pointer was also given to the violation of norms and conduct by the

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calls upon the whole poor, lower middle peasants and agricultural labourers of the State to build up united, continuous and protracted struggle against this onslaught of the Government."

The State Committee

UCTU MEETING

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CITU Bihar Committee in as much as they unilaterally convened and declared the venue and date of the State Convention without consulting other Central Trade Unions in the State and even paying no heed to the request of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) to jointly fix up another date since that coincided with the date of their another programme. The Convention, however held under the name of UCTU, was actually attended by CITU and LIC Employees' Association. This is a striking instance as to how far their sectarianism can go.

The General Council decided that the specific charges of sectarian behaviours of CITU raised by UTUC (Lenin Sarani) be bilaterally discussed. Accordingly discussions were held between CITU General Secretary Com. Rammurthi and UTUC (Lenin Sarani) leaders.

In Delhi also the Anti-Wage Cut Convention was convened by one B.K. Paliwala, self-styled and so-called convenor of Delhi UCTU, keeping UTUC (Lenin Sarani) completely in the dark about it. When questions were raised by UTUC (Lenin Sarani) representatives about it Com. P. Rammurthi, however, expressed his sorrow and assured that such mistake would not be repeated in future.

Com. Pritish Chanda, Com. Suresh Dasgupta, Com. Gyan Singh Chowdhury represented UTUC (Lenin Sarani) in the meeting.

After the General Council meeting, a meeting was held under the joint auspices of the Central Trade Unions belonging to UCTU and different Government undertakings' employees' associations. It was accepted in the meeting that the present movement in Bihar is a people's one and the demands raised by the people of Bihar in this movement are fully justified and totally in conformity with the aspiration of the toiling masses of the country and as such every progressive trade union organisation and right thinking man

Move to curb rights of teachers and educational workers

Our readers must have taken note of the statement that has been issued to the press by our Orissa State Committee condemning the modified Education Rules, that was framed up by the All Party Committee of the legislators, representing the Congress(R), the BLD, the SP, the CPI(M) and the CPI and has been subsequently adopted in the Orissa State Assembly. According to this Rule, the teachers and educational workers of aided Schools and Colleges of the state, shall not be members of any political party without the prior permission of the Managing Committee or the Governing Body of the respective institution. Moreover, it further adds that teachers or other category of staff of the said institutions shall not even own wholly or in part, edit or manage a newspaper, magazine or periodicals.

This particular fascistic move to curtail the political and democratic rights of teachers and educational workers has not been launched by the Orissa Government alone. It has been already reported in the press, that the Congress(R) Government in Bihar is also going to implement recommendations of the University Reforms Committee where it has been clearly specified that, "Every teacher shall not actively participate in any political agitation and shall not be a member of any political party."

So, it is amply clear that it is not an isolated action of any particular state Government. On the contrary, it is a calculated sinister design, part of an all out fascistic conspiracy of the ruling capitalist class against our people. The ruling capitalist class along with its accredited representative i.e. the Congress (R), on the face of growing acuteness of crises rooted in the moribund capitalist system does not take much time

should whole-heartedly support and participate actively in the movement to strengthen and lead it to a logical culmination.

It is, however, interesting to note in this connection that though initially the CITU, according to their political line, hesitated to identify with this approach but ultimately they had to accept it sensing the overwhelming opinion in its favour.

to drop its so-called radical cloak in nakedly attempting to wrest the political and democratic rights of our people by taking recourse to different heinous means, so that the exploited and oppressed people can not stand on their feet and raise their head against the capitalist exploitative system. off one views this present move in this correct perspective then only he will be able to understand the real objective of the ruling party i.e. the Congress (R) behind this move.

That apart, no doubt there is particular significance behind the present move to implement the said anti-democratic bill in Orissa and the recommendations of the University Reforms Committee drafted in an equally anti-democratic line in Bihar. In Orissa, where the anti-Congress (R) sentiment is intensively developing among the people including the teachers, the ruling class apprehends that if the democratic right to become members of the political parties is not curtailed then there is every likelihood that more and more teachers and educational workers of the state may associate themselves with the growing genuine left revolutionary political forces and this may ultimately pose a serious threat against the ruling party in future. And in Bihar, where all sections of the people including the teachers are

already engaged in active struggle against the Congress(R) Government, it is no wonder that the ruling party will try to restrain any and every section of our people, if possible, from participating in political activities.

Moreover, while giving an exposure to the real intention of the ruling class we should not fail to grasp one very important point. The Rule states that none (meaning of course teachers and educational workers) shall accept the membership of any political party *without prior permission of the Managing Committee or the Governing Body of the institution* (Italics ours). The motive that may have worked behind the insertion of this conditional sub-clause in the Rule is understandable.

All know that most of the Managing Committees and Governing Bodies of academic institutions are majorily filled up by persons with vested interests who are attached with the ruling party and the other parties having basically identical class interest in innumerable direct and indirect ties. So there is every apprehension that the necessary permission will be available only when one will seek for the membership of these political parties.

Again, now a days when most of the educational institutions are financially dependent on the Government led by a party having no moral or ethical scruple there is every ground to apprehend that it will create most unjust and wrongful pressure over the authorities of the institution by taking recourse to different heinous ways and means so that necessary permissions may not be given to any employee if he seeks the membership of any political party not to its own liking.

So this anti-democratic Rule is aimed at to cut both ways. On the one hand it

will try to arrest the growth and consolidation of the genuine left and revolutionary forces within the teachers and educational workers, while on the other hand, it will provide the ruling party with the scope of multiplying the number of the followers of its own and of the other parties to its own liking among the staff and teachers of the educational institutions in a surreptitious manner.

It has been reported that the BLD, the main oppositional party in Orissa State Assembly has lend its unequivocal support to this move. This is quite understandable. For parties like the BLD which is nothing better than a bourgeois oppositional parliamentary party that fights against the ruling Congress(R) party solely for winning parliamentary power, possesses identical basic class interest with that of the ruling Congress (R). So it is quite likely that in basic issues like the issue of giving political and democratic right to teachers and educational workers, it will identify its tune with that of the ruling party in power.

But what about those parties like the SP, the CPI(M) and the CPI who at present dominate in the top leadership of the movement of teachers and educational workers in different states, who often pose as champions of their cause, and pledge to fight for their democratic rights? What role have they played? This question necessarily arises in the mind of the people for these parties who are in the leadership of the teachers organisations in states and also in all India level had enough scope to arrest this heinous motivated fascistic design of the ruling capitalist class to wrest the political and democratic right of teachers, of course if they would have really desired so.

Let us first discuss the role of the SP. It has been reported that like the BLD, (Contd. to Page 4)

MOVE TO CURB TEACHERS' RIGHTS

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the SP also has lent its support to this move both in the meeting of the All Party Committee and on the floor of the Assembly.

None would find it difficult to follow the role of the SP. For, though the SP often tries to pose itself as a fighter for the people's cause, in reality it is a social democratic compromising force between labour and capital and in all crucial moments serves the basic interest of capitalism.

It is for this reason that inspite of posing itself often as a left wing force and even at times fighting for political and democratic rights of the people, the SP, whenever it apprehends that people enjoying these rights may gradually muster strong behind the genuine left revolutionary force, help it to develop and grow and thereby go against the basic interest of the capitalist system, it never desists even from joining hand in hand with the ruling capitalist class to curtail those rights. In fact, this has been again proved from the manner in which this party has behaved in this issue.

But what about our CPI(M) friends who always claim themselves as Marxists-Leninists, speak of 'revolution', exhibit 'revolutionary' stance, pledge to fight for the protection of political and democratic rights of all sections of the working people and do hold important positions in the leadership of the teachers movements in different places—what have been their role in such an important issue?

It has been reported that the CPI(M) both in the meeting of the All Party Committee and on the floor of the Assembly has lent their unequivocal support to this anti-democratic fascistic move of the ruling class.

On the floor of the Assembly, Mr. Banamali Das, the CPI(M) leader, while defending the move has been stated to have

observed that in comparison to West Bengal and Kerala, Orissa is politically backward. More over at present, there is 'predominance of reactionary influence' in Orissa. So the time has not yet ripen for giving political rights to the teachers and educational workers in Orissa.

The observations stated to have been made by the CPI(M) leader has appeared in the daily press. As it has not been contradicted or no rejoinder has yet been published in the press, this may be taken to be what the CPI(M) leader has actually observed while defending this black bill in the Assembly.

Even to those who still harbour the illusion that the CPI(M) really desires to fight for the people's cause, it may appear astounding that how a party who most often proclaims itself as a Marxist-Leninist can join hand in hand with the ruling capitalist class for curbing the political and democratic rights of teachers on filthy pleas? For all know that, not to speak of the Marxists-Leninists even the democrats who believe in democracy and freedom seriously strive for the preservation of political and democratic rights. And here it is the party masquerading as the communist party that most unethically and in collusion with the ruling bourgeoisie launches anti-democratic fascistic move to wrest the political and democratic rights and defends the same by childish utterances and filthy logic.

The CPI(M) leader has observed that Orissa is politically backward and at the same time, since there is predominance of reactionary influence, at the moment the teachers and educational workers should not be given the right to become members of political parties. We would have been much benefited, had the CPI(M) leader or his party been kind enough to educate us, where from they got, this 'illuminating' lessons of Marxism-Leninism and then

we could have really appreciated them too. Any sensible man understands that it is a sheer hypocritical nonsense being created solely to confuse the people for smooth sailing of the anti-democratic bill, jointly engineered with the ruling class and its stooges.

But none at the same time should fail to understand the real motive underlying the CPI(M)'s action by which the party, being solely guided by pragmatic considerations, desires to realise its own narrow sectarian, petty interests.

It is a fact that contrary to that in Orissa, where it is practically a microscopic political force, the CPI(M) is still a bigger political force in West Bengal and Kerala where it has comparatively a bigger following.

So when in West Bengal and Kerala, there is possibility of large section of anti-Congress teachers and educational workers, associating themselves with the CPI(M) simply because it is a big anti-Congress political party in these states, in Orissa, the thing may be just the opposite. Here the said section of the people enjoying the democratic right to accept membership of political parties may prefer political parties other than the CPI(M) which lacks in any appreciable influence over the people as a left anti-Congress political force. So it is this pragmatic consideration, and the narrow objective of safeguarding petty party interest that has driven the party which boastfully speaks in favour of political and democratic right in West Bengal and Kerala, to take the side of the ruling capitalist class in a most naked manner for curtailing even the political and democratic rights of the teachers and educational workers in Orissa. It is amply clear that being guided by sheer political exigency, the CPI(M) is pursuing the most naked policy of worst type of double standard.

Again when all understand it well that it is only by strengthening the genuine revolutionary politics on the soil that one can free the people from the influence of the reactionaries, the CPI(M) is driving to curtail one's birth-right to participate in politics. Has the CPI(M) ever thought for a moment that the filthy logic that it has put forward to restrict the democratic right will only help the ruling capitalist class, the reactionaries? For they too, like the CPI(M) will raise a similar objection against the issue of giving political and democratic rights whenever they will face an alien political atmosphere any where in the country.

Lastly we would like to expose the role of the CPI. It is being observed that the CPI, following its note of dissent that it submitted in the All Party Committee, is trying to pose itself as the real champion of the people's cause, the fighter for the protection of their democratic rights! From the loud uproar that our CPI friends are raising, it may appear that they desire to express that many people may try to malign them by calling them the drumboys of Indira Gandhi and observing them as to be tied to the apron-string of Indira Gandhi, but all must have noted that even when the CPI(M) has dittoed the line of the ruling party and given its rubber stamp over the move, it is only their party, the CPI that has dared to put its note of dissent against the said move! But my dear friends, don't be so much enthusiastic, don't be so jubilant! For, a proper assessment and calculation will show that the CPI too has done the same job that has been done by the CPI(M). But being a bit more clever than the latter, when the latter has done it in an open, naked and crude manner, the CPI has done it in a cunning and a surreptitious manner.

It is a fact that the CPI has recorded its note of dissent in the All Party Committee. But calculation however shows, that before

doing that it was sure that its note of dissent in no way would obstruct the said move from getting through the house. More over had the CPI been really serious to fight against this heinous move then it could have pressurised the Government to amend the rules by threatening to withdraw their support from the Government—a move that it never took in the Assembly. Over and above, though it submitted three amendment motions in the Assembly, it never felt the urgency of making all the members present in the Assembly and two of the three members who were to move their amendments were even absent. Again all know that in Orissa, the CPI holds a key position in the leadership of the teachers organisation. But in spite of the fact that the teachers are in a serious fighting mood against the Government, the proposed teachers strike has been called off! So, what do all these things indicate? It clearly shows that the CPI's note of dissent is simply a face saving move. For the CPI understood it well that if it, inspite of being in the leadership did not record its objection against the move then it would have to face serious criticism from the teachers. And the facts clearly reveal that it never, not even for a moment has desired to clinch the issue in favour of the teachers and educational workers at the cost of straining its relationship with Satpathi, her Government and the Congress (R).

So, this is the whole story how all these parties, the SP, the CPI(M) and the CPI, who often make high sounding tall talks on movement, who being in the leadership of teachers' organisations often talk high on teachers movement, teachers' cause, protection of their rights etc, etc, but in the question of political and democratic right of teachers and educational workers have fallen in the same line with the Congress(R), the accredited representative of the

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A.I.D.S.O. Anniversary

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productive system of our country which is interpreted in political terminology as the Socialist revolution.

But the pseudo-Marxist big left parties like CPI or CPI (M) are either joining in political alliance with Congress, the arch enemy of the people to defend the class rule of the bourgeoisie or are avoiding peoples' struggle on some plea or other. Wonder of wonders, even a top leader of CPI(M) Sri Jyoti Basu, as the newspaper reporting goes and not yet contradicted by Sri Basu or his party, instead of inspiring the oppressed masses to stand up courageously against the existing sorry state of affairs has in fact added to their fear complex by trotting out the so-called plea that peoples' movement in West Bengal could not be developed as because any attempt to that end would have meant loss of life on a massive scale. For any class-conscious worker, this single expression would have been enough to get to know the real colour of the party and its leadership. He could have surely understood that the Party of Jyoti Babu, notwithstanding its vociferous claim to revolutionary politics implicitly demands the backing of police and administration of a bourgeois state as guarantee before it can involve itself in any peoples' movement. And this party was sounding so heroic just a few years back in West Bengal when it had behind it the fullest backing of the government machinery. So whenever there is any apprehension of loss of life on a massive scale—this 'great' revolutionary party is not for mass movements. The obvious counterpart of this curious logic is—either they are very serious about mass movements only when they are protected by police force remaining in governmental power or they do not have any objection in mass movement inspite of loss of life if that is suffered by any other party. One can, of course,

very well understand the question of strategic retreat, if there is any, or the absurd futility of unnecessarily and overzealously wasting lives of people—but that question is never prompted by any opportunistic consideration being overtaken with dread and cowardice.

In our country where vast masses of workers and peasants are still not organised under a revolutionary leadership, any political party, even the rightists like Jan Sangh, Cong(O) etc. can make and do make workers and peasants participate in mass movements when they remain in their leadership for furtherance of their political designs. It was, therefore wrong to say,

without analysing the character of the leadership, that only the participation of workers and peasants would make a particular movement radical.

So it is the SUCI which has come out with a clear and correct concept before the mass movements.

It is SUCI the real revolutionary party that is to be strengthened organisationally which does not fear to plunge itself in peoples' movements as in Bihar, UP, and elsewhere to steer them in such a way as to develop the political power of the working masses that alone can accomplish the task of socialist revolution in our country. We cannot allow ourselves to be

unnerved by the complexity of the situation. The crying need of the hour is to carry the revolutionary message of your party, S U C I to the broad sections of the struggling masses. For this, three things are essential,—the correct base political line of the proletariat, the strategy and tactics of anti-capitalist socialist revolution, death-defying spirit of the revolutionary vanguards, their political initiative not to weaken but to strengthen centralism and fight any trend of bureaucratism and so must be tuned with revolutionary purpose and sense of discipline. If these things are ensured, then a real turn in the situation of our country can come about in near future. The society is pregnant with revolutionary change.

Only the revolutionary force sufficiently strong and trained up to carry on a protracted, and disciplined battle for the overthrow of the exploitative capitalist state machine is required to develop which can work as the midwife.

Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Secretary AIDS O, Gobinda Maharana (Orissa), Arun Singh (Bihar) addressed the meeting, Comrade Rabin Samajpati, Asit Das, Chinmoy Sen Gupta, Dipankar Roy, Basudeb Banerjee and Chaitanya Mandal moved and supported the resolutions adopted in the meeting.

In the main resolution adopted on the occasion, 14-point demands were voiced which include *inter alia*, a wide-spread public

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Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the renowned Marxist leader is seen addressing the big gathering at the 20th anniversary of the AIDS O at the University Institute Hall, Calcutta. Com. Pravash Ghose, Com. Chhaya Mukherjee, Com. Sanjit Biswas, Com. A. Sinha (Bihar) among other leaders, are seen sitting in the dais, (Below) A section of the large gathering.

FACTS SPEAK

"The current" weekly published in their issue dated 21st December 1974 the following :

"The Cement Allocation and Co-ordination Organisation (CACO) and individual cement producers placed (in 1966-67-writer) at the disposal of the then President of CACO, Mr. G.D. Somani, over Rs. 50 lakhs 'for discretionary expenditure in furtherance of the industry's objectives.'

"The Department of company affairs found that large sums from the discretionary funds were donated by the President of CACO to certain politicians and political parties 'in the interest of the cement industry.' Payment were made to those political leaders who in the opinion of the CACO President, was likely to toe their line and plead for the continuance of decontrol and when necessary, for fixation of prices favourable to them.

"Some of the distinguished recipients of the largesse of the cement industry through CACO are listed below :

Nana Deshmukh	Rs. 1,25,000	Jan Sangh
Jagdish Prasad Thakore	1,25,000	"
Balraj Madhok	5,000	"
Moolchand Deshlahera	1,55,000	"
R. N. Singh Deo	2,00,000	Swatantra
Thakore Raghbir Singh	1,50,000	"
Chandra Rattan Mohta	50,000	"
C. Rajagopalachari	50,000	"
Harekrushna Mahatab	10,000	Jana Congress
B. P. C. C. (under S. K. Patil)	2,00,000	
Lucknow City Congress	2,00,000	
(under C. B. Gupta)		

The list of "The Current", as is apparent, is incomplete. The list shows the distribution of only Rs. 12, 70,000. Of the Rs. 50 lakhs remains another Rs. 37.3 lakhs about which 'The Current' says nothing. To which or which other party or parties the Rs. 37.3 lakhs were donated ?

Congress in 1966-67 was undivided. Naturally, the Rs. 4,50,000 shown in the list that went to the funds of B.P.C.C. and Lucknow City Congress, should be considered to have gone to Congress fund.

Moreover, if we take into Consideration the passing

under brute majority the amendment to Section 77(1) of the Representation of peoples Act which clears out the political parties from the ceiling of election expences, and the proposed bill that the ruling Congress is going to bring in the next session of the Parliament which will legalise the donation to political parties by the industrial houses— if the ruling Congress was not intersted in the money from the industrial houses, it would not have made these moves. Further, Common sense says that if an industry wants to oblige a political party to gain some benefit—the ruling party it will choose. Naturally, it will not be a very bad guess that the bulk went to the Congress fund.

This too is just from one sector of Industries—the Cement Industries. There remains so many monopoly houses, jotedars, black marketeers, smugglers, hoarders, rich peasants etc. etc.

It is quite apparent that those who pay would surely see that they get back a

substantial return. And it is but quite natural that those who received it will do everything for their benefactor. It is a mutual relationship of give and take—a co-existence of interest.

So, the rich flourishing more—the fruits of the peoples toil bagged by a handful of exploiters and those who produce under the sweat of their brow, the toiling people, starve. Facts speak for itself the cause of people's miseries.

* * *

After establishing 'democracy' during the

last twenty five years the Congress(R) Party and its 'popular' Government have of late launched a 'crusade' against millions and millions of people to 'save' their greatest 'democracy' of the world and the constitution. The reason is that the people under the leadership of the opposition parties, are now more and more resorting to strikes, bandhs, agitations and anti-Government, anti-Congress(R) movements against starvation, spiralling prices, unemployment, corruption and all sorts of capitalist exploitations. More the people are taking the path of mass movement, more the Congressite rulers are shamelessly decrying them on the plea that anti-Government movements and agitations tantamount to denying democracy and defying constitutional mandates according to which, they say, people can easily voice their grievances and discontent through ballot box. But let alone the communists or other opposition leaders, even Mr. N.A. Palkhiwala has come out in the open to protest against the Indira brand democracy. He has observed, ".....the limit of dissent might be different in a country where election were free and fair and did not have money-power as their basis and where the Government respected the constitutional mandates and observed constitutional proprieties. But in India, election had been degraded to a point where only the richest party can win" (Statesman, 6.1.75). Mr. N.A. Palkhiwala, the renowned jurist made this remark during his G.L. Mehta lecture in Delhi on 5.1.75. When the left and opposition parties charge this Government for rigging the election the Congress(R) and its partner CPI brand this allegation as politically motivated. Now Mr. Palkhiwala is perhaps also motivated ! Not only that, his speech also bears another testimony to the fact that it is Congress(R) and its Government who have nakedly violated their own bourgeois demo-

In Contrast to India, China wears a completely New Look on its Glorious March towards Socialism

China, a nation with a gloomy past, once known for its abject poverty and distress engulfing its hungry millions, and once several times more backward than even what India was in her past, wears a completely new look today. On its glorious march towards socialism, it sees no nightmare of recession, inflation, unemployment or stagnation that haunts the entire capitalist world today. Ever since its emergence as the People's Republic of China in 1949, it has been consistently going on for all out development in economy, culture, service and technology along the scientific path of Marxism-Leninism, and has in the process, emerged as an exemplary and the most coveted nation in the world today.

Recently available information about Chinese agriculture is a case in point. Fully aware of its responsibility to feed the people under any circumstances, Chinese agricultural planning contemplates a cycle of five years, with two years of bad output, two average and one year of very bad output. Even then, after taking into account the worst possible eventuality, China's agricultural output in 1974 has hit a staggering record of 300 million tons. And yet, a glimpse of China on the globe will show us that at least one third of the entire country is wasteland, belonging to the category of desert and semi-desert. But the country has not resigned itself to the discretion of providence or given up its people to the mercy of nature. On the contrary, it has forced out of her

an apparently-impossible yield by its latest scientific innovations in keeping with its socialistic objectives.

India, on the other hand offers a miserable contrast. With all its advantages over Chinese physiognomy, with more arable land than China can boast of, India's estimated kharif output this year has been put at a paltry 105 million tons, which is 15 m. tons less than last year's turn out. Hence, the trend is towards a decline in output after all the nice tales of a contemplated buffer stock or the songs of 'green revolution'. While Mrs. Gandhi consoles herself with a thousand and one excuses for this failure to make any substantial use of available resources, and complains of nature's uncharitable and malicious designs, China goes on boosting its production in spite of the natural limitations it has to suffer. After this one wonders how floods and droughts can be peculiar only to the Indian part of the globe, or how these can be excuses to be harped upon for more than two decades, when China, with limited resources has not only been improving its record in agricultural output, but simultaneously is importing 6-7 million tons of food-grains every year to build up a huge buffer stock to feed its people in the event of a future setback despite its best efforts, and for barter trade with the poor

cracy and constitution. According to him, "...the Government had shown scant respect for constitutional proprieties. The deviations from the constitution were several and completely unjustified. Rule by Ordinances, for example, was one such unjustified departure. In Bihar alone, since 1972 there had been 307 Ordinances." No doubt the people of Bihar are really undemocratic who violated even these ordinances, the blessings of our great democracy and holy Constitution !

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Socialist Party too Criticises CPI(M)'s "Hesitant" Attitude towards Movement

In our issue dated 1st November 1973, we discussed in brief the CPI(M)-SP joint communique issued after their discussion between 18th and 20th September 1973 in Delhi.

We said, "There cannot be any two opinion about the necessity of building up of a united front of all left and democratic parties and forces as an only instrument alternative to Congress to conduct united mass movement and united mass struggle and the SUC has been striving to develop the same for a pretty long time.

"If the CPI(M) and the SP were really eager and sincere in developing a united front of all the left and democratic parties and forces in the national plane as an alternative to the Congress, these parties should have tried to develop unity on the basis of agreed common minimum programme of all the left and democratic forces through discussion among the different parties. We are not opposed to bi-lateral discussions among parties for developing united movement. But we like to state that any attempt to build up united front and any programme of united movement must be taken in joint meeting of different left and democratic parties. But the leaders of these parties did not do that. Instead of joint discussion among different parties for building up united front on agreed common minimum programme, the CPI(M) and the SP came to an agreement between themselves and decided the issues of the united movement and after settlement of these vital issues, they asked the support of other parties in the united movement.In the present stage of the left and democratic movement in our country, without a united front of all the left and democratic parties no tangible and effective movement can be built up with the joint effort of the CPI(M) and the SP only. So in the present phase of the development of the democratic movement in our country, any party seriously concerned with the building up of a united mass movement must strive to build up a united front of all

the left democratic parties and forces in the country.Does the behaviour not testify that the CPI(M) and the S.P. have scant regard for any democratic norms? Will not this practice of prior bilateral agreement on the united movement and the attitude of asking support of other parties in the movement priorly decided by them objectively stand in the way of development of the united front of the left democratic parties, the only instrument urgently needed as an alternative to the Congress for conducting united mass movement and united mass struggle under the present situation?

"This stand of the CPI(M) is however consistent with the recent Central Committee decision of the CPI(M) in which the CPI(M) brushed aside the question of the formation of the united front of different left democratic parties as impracticable in the present situation and by advocating joint struggle on specific issues, the CPI(M), in reality backstabbed the very process of the formation of the united front of all the left democratic forces—the only instrument, alternative to the Congress under the present phase of the development of the Left democratic movement for conducting united mass struggle. So there is no valid reason for the people to rejoice at the agreement between the CPI(M) and the SP.

"We appeal to all left democratic forces to feel the gravity of the situation, a situation where the formation of the united front on agreed common minimum programme, as an alternative to the Congress is of vital importance. So it

is earnestly expected that these parties must rise to the occasion, shun all petty consideration and come forward with seriousness and sincerity to build up this united front."

But unfortunately none responded to the suggestion we made and as a result the united front of the left and democratic forces could not be so far given shape to. People all over the country, crushed at the grinding wheel of the capitalist exploitation are wanting very much to give a befitting answer to Sm. Indira Gandhi and the ruling Congress Governments and in actuality are coming out in the battlefield. But because, a united front of the left and democratic forces could not be offered to them—the right reactionary forces are reaping the benefit.

In the Second National Conference of the Socialist Party at Kozhikode, on December 29th in his presidential speech Mr. George Farnandes accused CPI(M) of its hesitant attitude towards building movement. Mr Farnandes said, "The Socialist Party which had always wanted the CPI(M) to take part in all-party mass movements in the country, regretted the 'hesitant' attitude of the Marxists towards movements like the one in Bihar." (Statesman dated 30th December 1974).

Further in his speech, Mr. Surendra Mohan, the General Secretary said, "The party had suggested that all radical parties should meet together to define an alternative 'political platform' and to formulate a programme of mass action, but such a meeting could not be held so far mainly because of the CPI(M) stand.

"The CPI(M) wanted prior agreement as to the parties to be invited to the meeting and the programmes to be discussed. It was also of the view that the holding of such a meeting would need a period of preparatory work

and informal discussions". (Statesman dated 31st December 1974).

So it is again the same old tactics adopted by the CPI(M)! The Socialist Party, with which CPI(M) went so far as to issue a joint communique even, is found to be critical about the CPI(M). We know that the SP also is a social democratic force, a force of compromise between labour and capital. It is clear to us that their urge to develop mass movement is only to gain a foothold in the parliamentary politics—they will certainly try to reap some benefit to parliamentary ends only. But so long this phase of parliamentary politics and democratic movements remain, these forces have some role to play and are to be handled properly by the revolutionary forces and gradually with the advancement of the phase of democratic movement these forces are to be isolated from the people or they will themselves betray their social democratic character and isolate themselves. These are all clear to us and we in our pages have many times discussed about them, their character, their role. But the CPI(M) was hesitant even to go to that limited extent—upto which the SP was ready to advance. And the CPI(M) talks loud, claims wide that they are the real revolutionary force—they will lead the masses to revolution!

We ask the rank and file of the CPI(M) to ponder over the above and put pressure upon their leadership to shun this anti-people, anti-movement attitude.

We appeal to both the SP and the CPI(M), to come forward and seriously make effort to build a united front of the left and democratic forces on agreed common minimum programme. But to do this they should follow the democratic norms and the correct way to form the united front of the left and democratic forces, the alternative to Congress and the right reactionary forces, and give the peoples' wrath a consciously

ASSAM

Protest Day Observed by Central TUs

Gauhati, 20th December : On 17th December last at the call of six central trade union organisations—UTUC (Lenin Sarani), AITUC, CITU, BMS etc. and other Central Government employees' organisations observed all-Assam "Protest Day" in protest against the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act, the price rise of food and essential commodities etc.

As a part of the programme of the "Protest Day" a massive congregation of the workers was held at Nabin Bardalai Hall. The meeting adopted a nine-point resolution demanding of the Government to withdraw all the repressive Acts, to collect under compulsion rice and paddy from rich peasants, jotedars and businessmen and to distribute the same among the people through a well-knit distribution system etc.

The meeting elected a Presidium with Comrades, Indu Bhowmik of UTUC (Lenin Sarani), Barin Choudhury of AITUC, Amrita Bhattacharjee of CITU and Akhil ranjan Dasgupta of BMS as members of the Presidium. The renowned trade union leader and an organiser leader of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) Prabhat Khatniar among others spoke before the workers. Comrade Khatniar in his speech called upon the workers and toiling people to come forward and develop a united mighty movement against the massive retrenchment of workers, unprecedented price-rise and in demand of withdrawal of all repressive Acts, proper distribution of food to the people and introduction of all out state trading of food and essential articles and against the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act.

organised, sustained and militant character.

Jute Workers on Strike

(Contd. from Page 1)

than the Central Labour Minister as regards giving effect to agreement reached on earlier settlements on the badli worker about wages and service guarantee. Strange it may though sound but nonetheless it is a fact that the Government is now retracing from its own commitments as the jute barons show their unwillingness to accept these justified demands of the worker even when they have reaped profit at an unprecedented rate. And in all the so-called conciliation sittings the IJMA took an absolutely rigid stand and the labour representatives were only being asked to give up all their demands.

It would be worth noting that the role of the big central trade unions has been no less responsible for the absolutely rigid stand that the jute barons and the Government, their faithful servant have taken. No doubt till the last moment the Central Trade Unions were eager for some sort of face saving settlement despite the insistent demand of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) leadership that the very first thing, the pre-condition to any negotiation should be in all fairness the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of DIR involving condition of employment of other 34 industries also by the Government. The Government cannot be allowed to conduct negotiation with trade unions with the whip of DIR in hand. It will be nothing less than an imposed decision and will definitely encourage the Government to set up a pattern of 'guided trade unionism', striking at the very root of trade union movement. But let alone INTUC and AITUC even CITU showed no interest whatsoever in the future of Trade Union movement by joining with UTUC (Lenin Sarani)'s most justified stand. It has been toeing all along right from the beginning in all the tripartite meeting the

INTUC in whom it has found its saviour and even was reluctant to participate in strike but for INTUC's presence in the field. Naturally, INTUC is exploiting the situation fully and seems to be interested in refurbishing its image damaged in last strike by bargaining some paltry gain in money term and usurping credit for it. The jute barons and the Government have also taken note of the situation.

So, the only ray of hope for saving the struggle lies in forming without least delay joint strike committees in jute mills and mahallas, raising strike funds and mobilisation of support of working people including youth and student communities in the localities and all these are to be done by the jute workers themselves at the base. The Bengal Jute Mill Workers Union, affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) gave this call to the workers in its Kamarhati conference and Comrades Fatick Ghosh, Sitiesh DasGupta, Sanat Dutta, Secretary and Dilip Bhattacharjee Asst. Secretary of BJMWU have been consistently urging upon the jute workers on these points in all their mass and group-meetings.

BJMWU's workers, organisers, members are also trying their best to carry this message to the workers and in all the mills where BJMWU's affiliated unions are working the news of cent per cent participation by the workers in strike is coming. Workers of Hastings Jute Mill of Rishra are even trying to pull up the workers of Wellington Jute Mill to join the strike. CITU is not traceable there although it controls the workers along with INTUC. It is left to the Jute workers themselves to mount pressure on the management and Government on the one hand and on the vacillating section of leadership on the other so that they may not have

Teachers' Rights

(Contd. from Page 4)

ruling capitalist class and never hesitate for a moment to put their shoulder to the wheel for curbing even the said rights. In fact this is their real character—the character of social democratic forces that in reality at all crucial moments help the capitalist class and the system under different pretexts.

We urge upon the people of the whole country in general, and the teachers and educational workers of Orissa in particular to take note of it that so long these parties remain in the leadership of their organisations and movements, their cause is bound to be sacrificed again and again. It is only by freeing themselves from the influence of these social democratic forces of different shades and varieties and by accepting the genuine revolutionary party in the leadership that they will be able to protect their rights in the truest sense and lead their movement to its logical culmination.

We hope that they will ponder over this issue and take steps that the present moment of history demands of them.

DSO Rally at Delhi

According to the decision of the AIDS O conference at Cuttack, the AIDS O will organise a massive rally before the Parliament on 25th February next for pressing the demand of the introduction of secular and scientific education, food and employment. On the next day i.e. the 26th February a massive meeting will be held at Delhi and Com. Shibdas Ghose, one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the age will address the meeting.

An urgent instruction has been issued to all units of DSO to mobilise volunteers and funds for the success of the programme.

to taste yet another unhappy end of their struggle.

China Marches Forward

(Contd from page 6)

nations of Asia and Africa.

Another interesting feature of Chinese agriculture is that its rate of output increases simultaneously with rate of population growth, thereby exploding the myth of the Malthusian theory which is the main prop of so-called defence of the Indian bourgeoisie in favour of callous and irresponsible handling of the food situation. It may be recalled that in the recent conference on world population held under the auspices of the U. N. O. at Rome, it was China which exposed the utter hollowness of the theory, substantiating with developments in its own country. For every 2% of annual population growth, China has been increasing its rate of annual agricultural output by 2%, thus constantly maintaining a parity between the two. Hence the alarm over 'population explosion', however characteristic of the capitalist world, is no headache with socialist China.

This proves once again beyond any shade of doubt the unquestionable superiority of the socialist system which produces to meet the ever-increasing needs of the society, over the capitalist system which produces in order to extract maximum profit, thereby precipitating uninterrupted pauperisation of the people. Whatever resources are available in a capitalist system, they will not be utilised if there is no market. It is no wonder that stagnation in production, recession, inflation and the rest of the other diseases of moribund, capitalist economy, are plaguing the entire capitalist world which embraces India too. But the socialist economy of China is completely free from these crises as it has no profit motives. Hence, in the absence of pauperisation, demand always runs ahead of production, thereby constantly encouraging

maximum utilisation of all available resources and the productive capacity. This precisely is the secret behind China's great achievement in agriculture.

DSO Anniversary

(Contd. from Page 5)

distribution system for food and essential commodities at a fair and stable price, creation of employment opportunities for the unemployed, evolving a democratic, scientific and secular education free from any restriction of seat or opportunity, revocation of anti-democratic enactments like DIR, MISA etc. The resolution also urged upon SFI and other students organisations to co-operate with AIDS O in developing a long-drawn programme-based struggle of the student community.

Open Letter to Orissa Labour Minister

The Orissa Cement Workers Union submitted an open letter to Sri Benudhar Baliar Singh, State Labour Minister when he visited Rajgangpur on Jan. 4.

The open letter alleged that, (1) local employers and contractors were often violating labour laws with impunity, (2) the OCL management were depriving the permanent workers of their legitimate and lawful dues, (3) many workers engaged in permanent nature of jobs for long had not yet been made 'permanent', (4) workers were being deprived of their night allowance and dust allowance according to the Factory Act, (5) a full-fledged clinic with provisions for indoor patients was being deliberately used as an out-door dispensary, (6) family members of workers invalidated or killed while on duty were not being provided with any compensatory employment, (7) the management of the OCL has not yet introduced the cement dust controlling machine (8) the workers were being deprived of fair price ration shops.